

OUR MONTHLY LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

SLAVERY IN RUSSIA.
No. II.
LANDED TENURE AND SERFDOM IN RUSSIA.

Peter the Great completed what Boris Godunov had left unfinished, by making estates hereditary, as well as by reducing the peasants to serfdom. He thus armed the proprietors with the most formidable power, and left the bondsmen no hope of redress, except in a successful insurrection. This social reformer, who professed a desire to improve his country, riveted the chains of slavery on the bulk of the population, and on their posterity. He hated the country people, because they opposed national traditions to his Germanic innovations; and he punished their resistance by lowering them to the condition of beasts of wood and drawers of water. Surely, it was not for this atrocious crime, which far outweighs any services he may have rendered to civilization, that he has received the title of the "Great!" From his time to the reign of Catherine II, the enslaved peasants constantly meditated vengeance against their oppressors; but the favorable opportunity did not arrive till the rebellion of Pugatcheff, the celebrated Cossack of the Don. After his first victories, he caused a medal to be struck, with the inscription, "Peter III, Emperor of all the Russias," and on the reverse, "Radivius ut Ultor." Under him the serfs rallied, to make a desperate effort for liberty. Whether they believed, or not, that the murdered Peter was miraculously restored to life, or had escaped from his assassins and remained in concealment till he could strike a blow to recover his throne, there can be no doubt that circumstances were highly favorable to the revolt; and had Pugatcheff been more prudent, and less addicted to debauchery, the serfs might have won their emancipation.

Catherine had bestowed immense estates on her depraved lovers, if men can be called lovers who gratify the lust of a MESSALINA to satiate their avarice or ambition. These wretches, gorged with the plunder of the national property, treated the serfs worse than they treated their dogs. They were as devoid of feeling as of honor. The Russians have ever been a pious people, even to fanaticism, and looked with horror at the orgies of the German Czarina, exulting that she was not of their race or blood. She had even seized and secularized the lands of the Church, and handed them over to the companions of her guilt. As soon as Pugatcheff raised his banner, the indignant peasants flocked to him, and the populations of four provinces of the Empire rallied under the bold Cossack. Then it was, that the hatches of the serf sought to sever the crown from the land, and establish a democracy based on the ancient communistic organization. The chief weapon of the serfs was fire. They burned the houses of the nobles, and, for a while, the conflagration threatened to illumine the Kremlin at Moscow, and melt the frozen waters of the Neva. The rebellion spread from Tuer to the Caspian. It was a gigantic undertaking, the last unsuccessful effort to break the fetters of the enslaved cultivators of the soil.

It has already been stated that, according to the primitive constitution or traditions of Russia, the whole soil, one and indivisible, belonged to the Russian people, excluding all private property, except as to the usufruct; and that, up to the time of Peter the Great, none enjoyed more than the usufruct of the land. The supreme power of allotting portions for the holder for terms of years, belonged to the Czar by virtue of their dual prerogative; and the Czar delegated this power, by allotment, to the village municipalities and to the Boyars, as well as to conventual and monastic establishments. So long as this primitive system was in force, there was no question of landed property, private and hereditary property, it became necessary to have a record of what had been surrendered and of what had been retained. The nobles were continually trespassing on the crown lands, adding field after field to their patrimonies; and, in 1765, the abuse had become so serious, and the imperial revenues had become so grossly depreciated by these encroachments, that a survey was appointed in that year. It was a gigantic undertaking, when the immense regions of Russia are considered, and it is not surprising that it required sixty years to settle disputed claims in fifty Governments. Another attempt was made in 1837, but it led to no accurate results. SIBERIA was not included in either survey.

Cultivated crown lands had been assigned to the villages at an early period; and as these villages increased in size and population, they acquired a portion of the uncultivated crown lands, for which they paid a small rent. The communities had also allotments of forests, but those were subject to imperial administration. Peter the Great was the first Czar who appreciated the importance of timber, as he was the first to construct vessels of war. He placed the forests under the Admiralty. Since then, they have alternately been confided to the financial and naval departments of each of the separate Governments; but, in 1826, the general administration of the forests was transferred to the financial departments of each of the separate Governments into which the empire is divided, but the forests which are reserved for naval and mining purposes are ruled by special boards. According to a survey made in 1845, the total area of the crown forests, without including those allotted to the Cossacks, the towns and the mines, measures about 23,400 square miles. From this estimate Siberia is excluded.

According to a report made to the minister of the crown land in 1832, the following was at that date the numerical peasant population on the crown lands:

Male peasants	8,431,837
Enfranchised	126,799
Foreign Colonists	167,626
Nomadic	760,000
Exiled Colonists	7,499
Jewish Agriculturists	13,000
Excess of birth over deaths shown by the subsequent census of 1845	1,076,897

Males	10,583,638
Females	11,641,437
Total	22,225,075

One of the greatest evils in Russia, so far as the interests of agriculture are involved, is the absence of those we in England call "country gentlemen." The Russian nobility now hold more than one half of the cultivated land, and of both sexes, 24,000,000 of serfs; but there is not among them a Coke of Holkham, a Lord Spencer, or an Earl Duell. Many reasons may be assigned for this neglect of rural economy. The Russians never passed through an age of obscurity, which has left such indelible impressions in Western Europe. They never had feudal castles, with dungeons, keep, and moats; and they have no local reminiscences to cherish—no local traditions to influence their feelings. They have, indeed, country houses, but rarely visit them. The distances of these from each other is so very great, that, when on their estates, they are isolated from all society. These estates are family pride in their domain, but look upon them as a fundholder looks on lands—as a mere source of income. Of course the serfs detect their presence, and the nobles naturally shun those who hate them. They sell their property for a slight gain, and both land and serfs are handed over to new masters with indifference. It is said that in Russia large fortunes never reach the third generation. Peter the Great, by an ukase,

dated 13th March, 1713, wished to impose on the nobility the law of primogeniture and entail, but it was too radically opposed to tradition and popular customs, to meet with more than the most limited success. There are very few, and those only among the highest nobility, who still enjoy their ancient patrimonies. All this class reside at Moscow or St. Petersburg, or in the chief towns of the several Governments; they have always and unitedly resisted every effort made by the Czar to improve the condition of the serf, and looked with jealousy and suspicion on every scheme designed to elevate the status of the Crown peasants.

Peter the Great contemplated the establishment of a college to teach the sciences and agriculture. Catherine the Second meditated a comprehensive plan for the better organization of the peasants. Paul the First instituted cantonal administrations, and, in 1811, Alexander urged the necessity of carrying out the views of Catherine, and they were investigated by Count Gourieff; but every effort has proved vain; nor is this surprising, as the whole system is based on slavery. Under the present regime, the forests are wantonly fired, and otherwise devastated. Many proprietors are enriched by turning the wastes among the trees of the Crown domains, and marshes and swamps are formed. For instance, in the Government of Archangel there is only one man to superintend and preserve from injury thirty-five square miles of timber, and in the Government of Wolgoda, ten foresters have the charge of 600,000 square miles. The culture of artificial grasses is neglected; there are no rich meadows; consequently few cattle, and a want of animal manure. Till within the last ten years, the potato was only grown in the Western and Baltic provinces. Even the fundamental law of Russia has been violated by the working of this horrible system. The spirit of that law is embodied in the following traditional expression: "We serfs belong to our lords and masters, but the land of the country belongs to us. The land is there to feed us, it belongs to the people, and the Czar who has only given the nobles the usufruct." Now, it was proved, in 1837, that a vast number of peasants were absolutely destitute, plundered of the share to which they were entitled by virtue of the communistic organization. The rate of tax was uniform on all of them, without any regard to their means of paying it, for it was a poll tax, not a property tax. Many were crushed by this fiscal injustice. They were compelled to contribute to the soldiers were billeted upon them. These two last obligations were not regulated by the STATUTES of the villages, but by the ISPRANIK, a functionary elected by the nobles in the respective Governments; and that officer took care to put the heaviest burden on the peasants of the crown, so as to ease or wholly exempt the peasants belonging to the nobles to whose vassals he owed his position.

The existing system for the army was also fatal to agriculture. A rule was framed, that the military conscription should first take place among the most numerous families, which profoundly shocked the patriarchal manners of the people; for it had been the immemorial usage in Russia for all the members of a family to live together under the same roof, grandfathers and grandchildren. The recruiting law led to the dispersion of families; and sometimes only one male remained to bear arms, and when he was drafted, the household was deprived of their natural support. In the western provinces, formerly belonging to Poland, it was officially ascertained that, out of 600,000 peasants, 150,000 possessed only a single head of cattle for each family, and 125,000 did not own a single horned beast. To remedy these and other evils, the Emperor Nicholas nominated a special ministerial board, on the 1st of January, 1838, at the head of which he placed Count Kessel, who was directed to sound the whole question to its lowest depths, not only in the interests of the peasants, but in the interests of agriculture. In this inquiry was involved the interests of 22,000,000 of men. Extensive innovations were to be avoided; the national and patriarchal organization of the village municipalities was to be preserved, but all abuses were to be corrected.

[REMAINDER OF NO. II TO-MORROW.]

The Washington Sentinel calls the Boston riots "the first fruits of the Nebraska excitement." The Sentinel and the rest of the Administration organs have all along been telling us that the Nebraska bill was a tree that would bear only peace and union and harmony, and they must now feel a little astonished at the character of what they call its "first fruits." What do they now just suppose the future crops will be?—Louisville Journal.

JEFFERSON REVISED.—It is thought they have got a new edition of the Declaration of Independence at the South, especially calculated for that latitude. The following is said to be the beginning of the precious instrument: "While men are born with with considerable freedom, and endowed with inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."—Portland Advertiser, June 5.

"We dare not proclaim to our readers that Abolitionism is dead or dying. We believe the Abolitionists to be more numerous, bold, and potent now, than ever before."

Thus speaks the Savannah Georgian, in commenting upon the "signs of the times." There is a good deal of truth in what it says, and we have been trying for months to impress it upon the Administration press of the South. The Southern people we must understand it.

New York National Democrat.

The Indiana State Sentinel gives the population of the principal cities and towns in Indiana. New Albany, 17,000; Indianapolis, 16,000; Madison, 14,000; Evansville, 10,000; Lafayette, 9,000.

How one feels his inferiority as a writer, after a careful reading of the old authors, where upon every page beauties lie hidden which many discover not until after frequent perusal.

The last of man in town is remarkable for being always first on the ground as a fire. He is like a terrapin—nothing short of fire (not exactly on his back) will rouse him into activity.

SHANDS' PATENT FOR DRESSING MILLSTONES.

A year ago, Mr. J. G. Shands, of this city, invented a machine for dressing millstones, which was afterwards exhibited at the Crystal Palace, New York, and was rewarded with a premium, and for which he has since obtained letters patent. Those millers who have examined the machine acknowledge its merit, and can do so with confidence. Any practical miller can dress a pair of burr-stones in half the time which is ordinarily required to do it in the usual method, and it will be better done. The machine makes a clear, clean, thread-like mark, and does not break the face of the stone. It can be controlled at the will of the operator—and he can make the most delicate lick, and give the force of ten pounds, if required. The machine will last for twenty years, and any one who has experience enough in milling to know what is required to sharpen the face of a stone for grinding, can soon learn to do a good job with it. Other advantages are claimed for the machine, but these are enough to bring it into general use. Mr. Shands is now manufacturing machines, and will sell rights to those who may desire to purchase. See his advertisement. St. Louis, June, 1854.

Mr. JAMES ELLIOTT is authorized to receive and receipt for subscriptions and advertisements for the Daily and the Weekly National Era in Cincinnati and vicinity.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1854.

THE FREE CITIZEN.—In publishing the Prospectus of this paper, an error occurred in regard to the terms. It should read: 10 copies will be sent for \$15. The Prospectus will be found corrected in this paper.

THE PRESS AND THE PRIVILEGES OF CONGRESS.

"It seems that some of the Northern presses were really hoaxed to the belief that a Northern Senator had been menaced in this city on account of his denunciation of the Nebraska bill. We are happy to be able to say that our citizens are a law-abiding and order-loving people, and were in no wise moved to acts of discourtesy or outrage towards any public functionary by the intemperate denunciations of some of our Administration papers."

National Intelligencer.

The Intelligencer is good-natured, and does no more than justice to the citizens of Washington. But, it is entirely mistaken in assuming that no violence was threatened against Mr. Sumner. Violence was threatened, and the Washington Union, the "organ" of the President, provoked the threat. During the proceedings in the fugitive case in Boston, that journal, in its issue of Sunday morning, contained an editorial, fiercely and wantonly assailing Mr. Sumner, associating him with the violent resistance to the execution of the fugitive act in Boston, charging him with instigating and leading it on, and holding him up as a fit subject for popular indignation. A more wanton, unmanly, and ferocious personal assault we have seldom seen in any newspaper.

The result was a strong popular excitement in Alexandria, and among the idlers of this place; and in the former a meeting was privately held, for the purpose of concerting some measures for inflicting personal indignity upon Mr. Sumner, or seizing and holding him as a hostage, should the case in Boston terminate unfavorably for the claimant. This meeting calculated upon a certain amount of co-operation in Washington.

This movement, finally discouraged by the more discreet citizens of Alexandria, was provoked by the intemperate articles in the President's "organ." The Pro-Slavery papers here may try now to make merry over the matter, as if the Senator from Massachusetts had been frightened at shadows. Mr. Sumner, we can tell them, is not easily frightened. He is an advocate of the Cause of Peace, and his habits as a gentleman lead him to shrink from brawls or brute strife, on the street or in the Senate; but he has plenty of muscle, enough nerve for any crisis, and fully believes in the right of a man to defend his person against violence, by the precise amount of force that may be necessary. Quiet and peaceably disposed, he is not apt to be frightened by shadow or substance.

But that violence was contemplated, and that the half-formed purpose was provoked by the appeals of the President's organ, there can be no doubt. Nor has it yet succeeded in curling the mob instincts. Mr. Giddings, on a question of privilege, brought to the notice of the House, yesterday, a paragraph printed in its columns, by one who signs himself an "Old Fogey," plainly calling for violence against himself and those who sympathize with him on the floor of Congress. It is as follows:

"Those who, like the Abolition incendiaries, Parker, Phillips, Giddings, and others, are incessantly proclaiming their hostility to the laws and the Constitution, and stimulating men, women, and children, to violate them as a sacred duty, in my opinion have no claim to the protection of those laws or that Constitution. They are the apostles of sedition, violence, and murder; they are fera natura—wild beasts of the forest, knowing no law and no restraint but their wild, ungovernable instincts; and, like dastardly midnight prowlers, after firing the train, sneak to their holes, leaving their wretched dupes to become the victims of those acts which they themselves have stimulated. Is there no law that can reach these cowardly incendiaries, who, after throwing the firebrand, skulk away in darkness to enjoy the blaze? And are those who, on the floor of both Houses of Congress, openly declare their diffidence to that Constitution they have sworn to support and maintain, worthy of a seat in the sacred halls of legislation, when any act should emanate from that source? These are questions that must be answered sooner or later, and the sooner the better."

Now, we do not believe that the citizens of Washington are to be moved by such stuff as this; we have not the slightest apprehension for the safety of any of the members so brutally assailed; but let it be remembered that the editor of the "organ" is the printer of the House; in other words, one of its officers; and that, by courtesy, he is admitted to the floor of the Senate. What right has an officer of the House of Representatives to vilify any of the members? Is not such conduct a gross breach of its privileges? If tolerated, it will not lead to the most mischievous consequences? Ought not the House, rising above the animosities of partisan strife, to vindicate its dignity, and protect its rights, by frowning upon any of its officers who shall dare to assail the character, or invite indignity to the person, of a Representative of the People, however unpopular or obscure?

As to the Senate, what regard for decency or decorum can that man have, who, after having been admitted by courtesy to the privilege of the floor, prostitutes the public press to the most intemperate assaults upon the character of several of its members, and calls for popular vengeance against them? In accepting the courtesies of the Senate Chamber, the editor of the Union incurred a special obligation to respect the privileges of its members.

Having violated this obligation, he deserves to be excluded from the floor. We recollect that a former editor of the same paper, for an article far less offensive than those which have lately appeared in its columns against Mr. Sumner and those who sympathize with him, was very summarily excommunicated—but, in that case, the offence was committed against one who was backed by a strong Party!

The Liberty of Speech and the Press is a sacred right, above all laws and constitutions. The public acts and words of men are legitimate subjects of animadversion or denunciation; but, when an editor deliberately misrep-

sents a public man, garbles his speeches for the purpose of placing him in a false position, does all he can to arouse the prejudice and brute passions of violent men against him, with an obvious purpose of making him the subject of personal indignity, he flagrantly abuses his liberty, and whatever he may be, in the eye of the Law, he is just as guilty, under a moral aspect, as if he had uttered a libel, or committed a breach of the peace.

For the National Era.
JUNE.

BY WILLIAM ALBERT SUTLIFF.

The livelong day, this summer weather,
Chased by thy zephyr fleet,
The light and shadow go together
Over the browning wheat.

And after the staring daytime closes,
Passionless, white, and high,
The moon peeps into the elvish roses,
Out of her native sky.

Under the bill where the sun shines dimmer,
Shrunk from the eager beam,
The brook goes on, with a fiftieth glimmer,
And music for a dream.

Over the groves and meadowed meadows
The steady grey hawk wing,
And down below, in the shifting shadows,
The jenny small birds sing.

My tired foot, from the broad sun going,
Presseth the cooling moss,
And my eye doth see, 'mid the green leaves showing,
The fair clouds fit across.

Give me a bed with a brook-fall nigh me,
Pattering-low and sweet;
And a glimpse of the Dryads glancing by me,
With white unbraided feet.

Give me a brown-leaved volume olden,
Quaint with its antique dream,
Lending the full-flowered genius golden,
Back in a swelling stream.

And a vision of ancient groves and meadows,
Where Hyacinthus nods;
And fairly gleams through the mythic shadows
White temples of the gods.

Then shall the sky, with its deep-blue glory,
Telling of Heavenly clime,
Mistily blend with the gentle story,
Draped in the rhyme.

So shall a ray of sunbeams brighter
Life's even stream-course steep,
And a purer thought come to lighten
My dim way o'er the deep.

BUSINESS IN CONGRESS.

This Congress has been in session six months and one week, and the one great measure which it has succeeded in accomplishing, is the REPEAL OF THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE—an act not called for by the People, but repugnant to their interests and wishes—while not a single measure beside, of any importance, has been attended to. After having obeyed Slavery, and opened the door to it in Nebraska Territory, it adjourned on the 1st instant, professedly with a view to allow time for cleaning the legislative halls, and putting them in their summer trim. This work was or might have been done, easily, in two days, but from the first of June up to this time, there has hardly been a quorum at any time in either House, and nothing will be done till next Monday.

Taking a rest of twelve days, after a session of more than half a year, used up by a successful effort of the Slave Interest to swindle the free States out of their rights, and secure a vast ground for prosecuting a gigantic scheme of aggression, Congress will probably go to work next Monday, and endeavor, by hurried action on important bills, to make up a record which shall embrace some other acts, beside that infamous achievement—the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. The Postage Bill, the Pacific Railroad Bill, nearly all the heavy Appropriation Bills, and other measures of great interest, have yet to be acted upon.

The majority has already abundantly demonstrated its capacity for doing evil—let us now see whether it has any power to do good. If it will dispatch its necessary business in two months, and go home, this city and the country will both feel relieved. The proposition of the Senate is, to take a recess from the 1st of July to the 1st of October. Should it be adopted by the House, the greater part of the business will be thrown over to the adjourned session, which will be protracted till the next regular session. The House will probably reject this resolution of the Senate, and try to dispose of the necessary business by the 1st or 15th of August.

THE CUBAN PLOT.

The President having got into a war with the American People, on account of the Nebraska Bill, is rather shy of a war with Spain. So the Cuban plot lingers. The Richmond (Va.) Enquirer, which regarded his action in the former case as a pledge of his determination to carry out in full the schemes of the Slave Power, is displeased, talks of "diplomatic diplomacy," scolds the idea of sending a Commission to the Court of Spain, and insists that a Presidential message should have been sent to Congress, announcing the fixed purpose of the Executive in relation to Cuba, and invoking co-operative legislative action. If the information of the Washington correspondents of the Baltimore Sun and Philadelphia Ledger be correct, it is no wonder that the President is somewhat perplexed. Not only say they, has the Queen of Spain remitted the fine of \$6,000 imposed on the Black Warrior, but promised to regulate affairs in Cuba so as to give no annoyance to the United States, disavowed the existence of any treaty with France and England for the protection of Cuba, and denied solemnly the existence of any project for Africanizing the island. If all this be true, the President has not even a pretext, direct or indirect, for hostile measures. But, he ought to know that where a pretext cannot be found for doing what Slavery demands, he must not without any.

"Why, then," asks the Richmond Enquirer, "should not the Government avail itself of the moment when the energies of England and France are absorbed in the struggle with Russia, to enforce a satisfactory settlement with Spain? Nations are never deterred from seizing an opportunity by the fanciful sentiment of a squeamish philanthropy; nor should the United States be so weak as to postpone its design upon Cuba because France and England are not in a condition to interfere resistantly to our policy."

In plain terms—the Administration is told that it has a good chance to plunder Spain, and get off with impunity, and therefore it ought to do it. This is Pro-Slavery chivalry!

We are not sure, however, that the advice may not be followed. The President has sacrificed so much for Slavery, he can hope for nothing from its opponents. Besides, as a politician, he is overawed by the Slave Interest, and shrinks from defying its power. He will probably temporize on this Cuban question, until near the close of the present session, when the men who have passed the Nebraska bill may invest him with power to act in regard to Cuba, during the interval, as circumstances in his judgment may demand. This would place the question of peace or war at his disposal; and that the power would be abused to the serious injury of the country, no one can doubt, who knows his subjection to the Slaveholding Oligarchy.

Let no man in Congress, who is anxious to preserve the honor, the good faith, and the peace of the nation, be lulled into security by the over-confident reports of Washington letter-writers, that the danger in relation to the Cuban plot has gone by. So long as we have such an incumbent in the White House, and such a majority in Congress, both controlled by the Slave Power, the country is in continual danger.

CONGRESS.

The Senate did not sit to-day.

In the House of Representatives, after the presentation and reference of an estimate of the Superintendent of the Public Printing, of the Deficiency of the appropriation for the present year, and also of a copy of the laws enacted by the Territorial Legislature of New Mexico, enacted at its last session, Mr. Paulkner arose, and, in an eloquent address, announced the death of the Hon. John F. Snodgrass, of the 11th district of Virginia. He was followed by Mr. Letcher, who spoke feelingly, and in terms of great respect and affection, of the deceased. The usual resolutions of respect and condolence were adopted, and the House adjourned until to-morrow.

LITERARY NOTICES.

LETTERS TO A YOUNG MAN. By Thomas De Quincy.

ESSAYS ON PHILOSOPHICAL WRITERS AND OTHER MEN OF LETTERS. By Thomas De Quincy. 2 vols. Boston: Published by Ticknor, Reed, & Fields. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Washington, D. C.

These volumes close the series of De Quincy's writings, which these enterprising American publishers, Ticknor, Reed, & Fields, have presented to the Public, in a remarkably neat and convenient form.

The Westminster Review for April, in the course of an excellent article on this remarkable writer, pays a deserved compliment to the literary discernment of our publishers and readers. Even Sydney Smith, now, it remarks, would be fain to admit that among the many tests of the permanent merit of an English work, none perhaps is sounder than the judgment of an American public. "Carlyle," it says, "was recognised in America long before England had perceived his genius and his strength;" "it was America that first collected and reprinted the admirable Miscellaneous of James Martineau; and it was America who first republished the vagrant articles of the 'English Opium Eater.'"

After all, then, it is admitted that "pirates," the publishers of this country, have done some service to English authors.

STRUGGLES FOR LIFE; OR, THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A DISSENTING MINISTER. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blackiston. For sale by Frank Taylor, Pa. avenue, Washington, D. C.

This beautiful autobiography, a copy of which we received in the sheets, in advance of its publication, and from which we made liberal extracts, is now published, and may be had at Frank Taylor's, on Pennsylvania avenue. It is a handsome, well-printed volume.

THE MYRTLE WREATH; OR, STRAY LEAVES RECALLED. By Minnie Myrtle. New York: Charles Scribner. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Washington, D. C.

This volume of sketches, letters, and poems, will be read with pleasure by the numerous admirers of Minnie Myrtle, whose graceful, flowery, animated pen is always guided by a kind and genial spirit. Her writings, gay and amusing, abound in just sentiments, forcibly expressed.

THE FUGITIVE BURNS AND HIS MASTER AT HOME.

The Alexandria Gazette, of yesterday, says: "Col. C. F. Suttle has arrived home. He thinks that although the Boston public are opposed to the Fugitive Slave Law, a majority of the respectable inhabitants of that city were in favor of sustaining the laws of their country, and opposed to the mobs and violence exhibited. Anthony was much rejoiced to escape from the killing kindness of his dear friends, into whose arms he had unfortunately thrown himself, and will doubtless, hereafter, 'be a wiser, and we hope, a better man.'"

If Col. Suttle or the editor of the Gazette was about purchasing a lot of ground from a married man, he would require the wife of that man—though the most intelligent and independent woman in the land—to be interrogated, apart from her husband, in order that her real, uncontrolled wishes might be ascertained; but the confessions of a poor negro slave, alleged by his master to be made in his presence, are gravely reported to the world!

We are, it appears, defeated. Like the prisoner of the Bastille, when proffered release, Philadelphia prefers her accustomed bonds.

She certainly does not appear to be disposed to impose bonds upon Kansas and Nebraska, nor upon any other territory now free. Hazlehurst, who was loudest of all in denunciation of Slavery, received the largest vote given to any candidate for any office.

Philadelphia has redeemed herself from the rule of a spurious Democracy, and it is not likely that she will ever submit to it again.

A Chemical Professor at Parma, Italy, has recently succeeded in producing gas for illumination from various kinds of wood, which is said to be cheaper and purer than any now in use.

The citizens of Cincinnati have tendered the Hon. J. Scott Harrison, the M. C. from that district, a public dinner.

The projected railway between Civita Vecchia and Rome has failed.

The Hon. A. B. Greenwood, of Arkansas, has been nominated for re-election to Congress.

THE ANNEXATION OF CUBA.

When statements like the following are made through the medium from which we quote, they are generally either wholly and literally true, or made by instigation and with an artful purpose to promote the objects suggested. By a simple treaty, arranged in secret by the Administration, and confirmed in secret by the Senate, the area of our Republic may at any time be doubled, the slaves of all the West India Islands may be brought under the protection of the General Government, and the payment of hundreds of millions of dollars may be pledged by the General Government. It is true that the House of Representatives, in open session, will have its say in regard to the appropriations to accomplish these purposes; but the House of Representatives is fast ceasing to be a representative body of the people, and is becoming but the servile, reward-expecting executor of the will of an arrogant President and Cabinet.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]
WASHINGTON, June 8.

The Administration, it is hoped and believed, have disengaged themselves of the small questions of dispute which had been made with Spain, in regard to trifling revenue matters, and the improbable Africanization story, and are now prepared to approach the great object in view: that is, the acquisition of Cuba in an open and direct manner. They are expected now to say plainly, through the two proposed Commissioners to the Spanish Government, that the United States want Cuba, and must have it, and intend to have it.

They will represent to Spain that the possession of Cuba by the United States is a part and parcel of our manifest destiny; that it will be commercially convenient and politically desirable; and, further, that Spain cannot much longer hold it, without more expense than it is worth, nor even conveniently with a continued peace between her and the United States, and that we are more willing to buy it than to go to war to obtain it. If, then, Spain refuse to sell, the commissioners will say that we leave the offer open to acceptance within a reasonable time, and that, if it be not accepted, we shall, at our convenience, "some 4th of July," or some 8th of January, proceed to take it, free gratis. That, I imagine, is the present position and the present policy of the Administration on this subject. Next week, perhaps, this view of the matter will be confirmed.

When the subject of the appropriation for the two special ministers of Spain shall come before Congress I presume we shall have a discussion involving the expediency of the acquisition and annexation of Cuba, with war or without war, with money or without, with Slavery or without. Even the financial question will not be unimportant; and it may be considered whether two hundred millions will not be a very heavy load for the Treasury and for the public credit to bear, and whether it is not too much to pay for the benefit of the Creole and American speculators in this enterprise? It ought to be at least required, that the parties who are directly interested in the measure should pay half the amount, either of the purchase money or of the war.

FROM CALIFORNIA.

The steamer George Law arrived at New York yesterday, from Aspinwall, with the California mails of the 16th ult., 434 passengers, and \$973,472 gold on freight.

A vessel is fitting out to act as a privateer under the Russian flag.

Rich diggings have been discovered on South Mount Diablo.

The Maine Liquor Law will be adopted by the Legislature of Washington Territory.

The steamer Star of the West, from San Juan, also arrived yesterday, bringing nearly \$1,300,000 in gold.

The Legislature adjourned on the 15th, after defeating the Senatorial Election bill and the Extension bill.

The gold mines were yielding abundantly.

The weather, since the 1st instant, had been remarkably favorable for agricultural and mining purposes.

The city officers of San Juan have resigned, leaving the town without government. No further disturbance had taken place.

THE CHOLERA.

True courage is prompt to encounter approaching danger; and it is thus often averted. The cholera exists in portions of our country. If the health department of our city government would act wisely, it has but to proceed at once to purify its city, and to adopt all possible means of keeping off disease, or assuaging it, should it come.

A THRILLING SPECTACLE.—A little child, only three years old, got upon the roof of a three-story house in Fourth avenue, New York, on Wednesday evening, and approached the eaves, and, swinging his hat in his hand, looked down with the utmost composure on an excited and trembling crowd. Some gentlemen, with great presence of mind, got up on the roof, quietly, and coaxed the adventurer to the scuttle, when they seized him and bore him away to his mother, half frantic with fear, in the room below. IT WAS A MOMENT OF TERROR to all but the little fellow himself.

A State Temperance Convention is in session at Harrisburg. Letters have been received from the candidates for Governor. That from Gov. Bigler is unsatisfactory. The temperance men will vote on the question of prohibition in October, but will not nominate a candidate for Governor.

A convention of delegates from the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and Canada is in session at Buffalo. The object is to promote Christianity throughout the American continent.